

research, aeronautics, space exploration, under the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, I thank the chairman, Chairman MOLLOHAN, for funding those programs in a balanced manner. It may not be all that we want, but I am very glad to see exploration of \$3.9 billion, \$467 million over 2007 and the same as the President's request, has been funded.

Let me say that one of the issues that should be included, however, if we go to space, we need to be safe. My legislation dealing with the international space station and a safety commission needs to be reemphasized, and I will have an amendment to that extent.

Might I also say that it is very important, as we look at a number of issues around America, including law enforcement, that we provide interoperable equipment for our workers who are dealing with the public.

In Houston it is a tragedy that the bus workers that work for the metro system don't have communication devices that they drive the buses around our city. I am hoping to offer an amendment that will emphasize that.

This is important legislation that we are moving forward, including support for the legal services. I look forward to debating this bill and supporting it as we help America and help the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for half the time remaining until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to come before the House once again. I think it's very important to know that we have half a week and next week to complete the people's business. We have a lot that we are working on right now in the United States, also; legislation to redeploy our troops in Iraq, passing a farm bill that would help America move forward, to continue to have legislation that has already passed this House in the Six in '06 plan that we put forth in the first 100 hours of this Congress, getting it through the process. We celebrate this week, just yesterday, I believe, the in-

crease that started with the minimum wage across the country. Americans have a lot to be proud of with this new direction of Congress.

As you know, in any democracy, it has to be a bipartisan spirit to get the job done on behalf of the American people. We are trying to do that in the best way possible.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle, on the Republican side of the aisle, in many cases are stutter-stepping and slowing down the process, but it's very, very important that their voice is heard in this Chamber. I think the days upon days and the hundreds of amendments that have been offered here on the floor and that have been voted on is evident of how this Democratically controlled House has allowed the minority party to be able to have access that only they could celebrate in the 110th Congress, which we weren't able to celebrate under the 109th Congress.

I also want to point out the fact that we have passed over 40-something major legislation where we have had bipartisan support, and I think that's important.

One issue I want to talk about tonight, since our time is limited, of the amount of dollars that we are spending in Iraq as we continue to try to redeploy our troops. We know the September 15 date is coming up, the second report of progress, or a lack thereof, in Iraq will be due. Members of the House are going to have to vote on the defense appropriations bill shortly thereafter that will set the tone for the remainder of the fiscal year.

As you know, we passed off this floor on a bipartisan vote continuing an emergency supplemental that would allow 3½ months of funding for the war in Iraq with MRAP tanks and other equipment that the troops needed.

I think Members had voted in the affirmative, Members had voted against it, both were courageous votes. I think it's time to move in a direction of policy. No permanent bases, I understand, will be coming up on the floor. We also have other legislation calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops by a certain date. I think that's also important and very courageous. I think the debate that is going on in the Senate and the House, led by Democrats, are going to help us as we move towards the September 15 date.

As you know, and the Members know, I speak quite often on leaving politics behind and putting good policy forward, making sure that we don't act as Democrats and Republicans politically. I will say that again, rather than representing the American people. The American people are way ahead of us on this issue of Iraq.

I think it's important as we continue to share the information as we get in. This came from the Congressional Research Service. The cost of the war in Iraq is rising per year. You see the number in the billions, \$120 billion per year, per month; \$10 billion per week.

We are looking at looking at \$2.3 billion a day. We are looking at \$329,000, we are looking at, per hour, as you see it relates per hour; the \$13 million. I think it's important to look at per minute, \$228,938 that's there in the thousands, and then we have \$3,816 per second. I think it's important.

I think it's also important we look at those numbers, the cost per year, we look at the billions. We are looking at \$120 billion per year. That can actually pay for 4.7 million EMTs and paramedics. When you look at it for a monthly cost at \$10 billion, which we are spending in Iraq, you can actually provide EMTs or paramedics for your local community or for the Nation, 395,000.

When you look at the per-week cost, \$2.3 billion, 91,000 EMTs and paramedics could be provided for local cities and counties and parishes; per day, at \$329 million, 13,000; and per hour, \$13.7 million that's spent that could actually fund 543 new EMTs. I think it's important, especially for those cities that are struggling and those counties that are struggling and States that are struggling on this very issue of how they are going to provide emergency service in their local community.

If you look at the cost of the war, could enroll more kids in Head Start. I think it's important for us to look at the \$120 billion, 16.7 million kids can go into Head Start; per month at \$10 billion, 1.7 million kids could go into Head Start; per week, \$2.3 billion that's being spent in Iraq, 320,000 kids could actually be enrolled in Head Start where we have a shortage of funding and every kid can't receive Head Start opportunities where kids can start early and be healthy, and parents can have kids that will be prosperous educationally.

□ 2330

Per day, look at \$329 million; 46,000 kids could benefit. And the per-hour cost that we are spending in Iraq at 13.7, 2,000 kids could be enrolled in the Head Start program.

As we start talking about health care insurance for children, I am just looking at these numbers as a member of the Ways and Means Committee and I am just thinking of how many kids we can actually do good things for and Americans. We just pulled a few of these things.

The cost of Iraq could send more Americans to college. You know the numbers by now. As you know, this is the year number at \$120 billion, and the per-month is \$10 billion, the per-week is \$2.3 billion, per-day is \$329 million, and per-hour at \$13.7 million.

But look at this side, on the far side here, Mr. Speaker and Members, the numbers of students that could be helped: 21 million students in the one year that we spend there. So this means 21 million young people would have an opportunity to go to college, that is amazing, for what we are spending in Iraq right now; 1.7 million students per month can receive an education in the United States and make